CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION REPORT 25X1 COUNTRY USSR DATE DISTR. 26 FEB 54 SUBJECT Prevalent Diseases in Komi Republic/ NO OF PAGES 3 Lack of Biological Research Facilities/Potato Rot PLACE ACQUIRED NO. OF ENCLS. DATE ACQUIRED 25X1 SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. DATE OF IT THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION 25X1

- 4. Diseases most common in the Komi Republic were malaris (P. Vivax), typhoid, paratyphoid, Brills disease (typhus) and various influences.
 - a. Malaria (P. Vivax) which produces tertian malaria is very common.
 - (1) In the Komi Republic the USER took no measures to curb mosquito breeding. Consequently, during the warmer months the region is heavily infested with mosquitos bearing the above disease.

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(2) To point up the settent disagraphin in the area census of Komi in 1942 was about 30 thousand free men. The approximately 300 thousand Polish prisoners were not of course, considered for census purposes. Nevertheless that of the 330 thousand human beings in the area, at least 15 per cent were suffering from P. Vivax type malaria.

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(3) In laboratory analysis to difficulty in determining the disease and the type. made a thick drop specimen rather than the usual thin smear easily finding the parasite on the periphery of the blood smear.

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- (4) Since medical care and medicines were free in the USSR, persons suffering from malaria could easily procure quinine in such amounts as the physicians deemed necessary. In most cases the quinine provided, at the best, only temporary relief, for this type of malaria was chronic and in most cases was so advanced that quinine appeared to be ineffective.
- (5) In order to treat the disease some of the free people used an old "home remedy". They consumed quantities of alcohol to which they added pepper, believing this would cure their malaria. Such treatment, of course, created a large number of alcoholics but didn't cure their malaria.

b. Typhoid and paratyphoid

- in no position to do cultures, but the above diseases were not difficult to diagnose.
- (2) Hygiene, particularly personal habits, was primitive. Frankly, very few people used toilet paper, there were no bathing facilities, and very few dwellings contained running water. (Water was carried in buckets from village streams.) Due to such unsanitary conditions, typhoid was contracted by sizeable portions of the population.

 unable to estimate the percentage of sufferers or the treatment administered by physicians.

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(3) Another source of typhoid (in my estimation) was the communal water. On Sundays the population would go to the community Vannaya /Bath house. The people arrived home cleaned of dirt but because the bath house was not clean, they also became infested with lice and perhaps germs from the water which was not sterilized or chemically treated.

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c. Brille Disease (typhus)

- (1) The mortality from this disease was always high. It reached its peak, however, when Polish prisoners were freed from various northwestern concentration camps in 1944 and 1945. This disease spread throughout the northwest after the release of the above people. In my estimation, typhus was easily contracted because the population was undernourished and had no facilities to maintain cleanliness.
- (2) The Soviet Government's reactions to the spread of typhus were manifest by the following actions:
 - (a) They wouldn't permit statistics to be published -- any such attempt by a scientist was sufficient reason for immediate imprisonment.
 - (b) The government made no official comments on this disease, thereby not revealing through press or other media of communication that the disease was quite rangent.
 - (c) In several instances doctors disappeared from the area, thereby creating the impression that the government had considered these individuals responsible and had them confined in prisons.

d. Influences

(1) Influence was commonplace. Again, we had no laboratory facilities to do research or determine the types.

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